UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
23rd meeting
held on
Monday, 18 November 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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91-57433 5293S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/46/SR.23
20 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/46/13 and Add.1, A/46/373, 399, 535-541, 622; A/SPC/46/L.12, L.15-L.22)

1. Mr. ELIASSON (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that, despite the increasing demands on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Agency had been coping with its work in an impressive way. However, only a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts could solve the problem of the Palestine refugees. The Nordic countries commended recent efforts, especially by the United States, to bring together all the parties to the conflict. The Middle East peace conference in Madrid had been a major breakthrough, and the positive atmosphere surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian talks was particularly gratifying. The Nordic countries appealed to all parties concerned to show flexibility and far-sightedness and to refrain from any acts that might constitute an obstacle to the peace process.

2. The Nordic countries commended the Lebanese Government's ongoing efforts to extend its authority in Lebanon in accordance with the Taif Agreement. It was to be hoped that that would lead to improved conditions for the Palestinians.

3. The intifadah and the Israeli countermeasures had had a heavy impact on UNRWA's working environment over the past four years. The Nordic countries continued to be preoccupied by the loss of life in intifadah-related incidents and intra-Palestinian confrontations and by such measures as administrative detention and the demolition of houses in the West Bank and Gaza, and they urged Israel to comply fully with the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 and to freeze all settlement activities in the occupied territories. His delegation deplored the incursions on UNRWA premises and the detention of UNRWA staff members.

4. The Nordic countries were encouraged by the cost-effective way that education was being carried out in the UNRWA schools despite the difficult circumstances and shared the concern expressed in the Commissioner-General's report (A/46/13) at the considerable study time lost in the occupied territories owing to curfews and strikes. It was difficult to understand how the closure of schools could have any significant impact on the security situation.

5. UNRWA was to be commended for its efforts to upgrade emergency medical care in the West Bank and Gaza and to improve the health situation in the camps. Assuring minimum standards of nutrition, shelter and clothing were of fundamental importance in dealing with acute shortcomings, but in the long

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

term, it was essential to raise the socio-economic level of the refugee population as a whole. For that reason, the Nordic countries were pleased that UNRWA was increasingly engaged in income-generating programmes.

6. The efforts of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations were of great value to the work of UNRWA, and the Nordic countries called for expanded inter-agency cooperation with a view to optimizing resources.

7. The Agency's financial situation was relatively healthy, but UNRWA's resource base must be improved to keep pace with the rapid growth of the refugee population. The Nordic countries were pleased that a broadening of the Agency's donor base was considered to be of high priority. Special efforts should be directed towards persuading the countries of the region to restore their traditional share of the contributions. Giving greater attention to longer-range strategic planning might help to consolidate a sound financial situation.

8. In 1991, contributions from the Nordic countries had amounted to almost one fourth of the total contributions from individual countries to UNRWA's General Fund and ongoing activities. The Nordic countries also supported UNRWA's emergency and special operations. The international community must not fail to back the Agency's vital work at a crucial juncture in the history of the Middle East.

9. Mr. EL-ARABI (Egypt) said that, although UNRWA had been established temporarily in 1949, the need for the Agency had grown constantly owing to the deterioration of the conditions of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation. The Agency had broadened its scope to include refugees outside the camps established in 1948 and had extended its activities beyond those it had originally been entrusted with. As a result of the 1967 occupation and Israeli measures, which had included the wounding and killing of defenceless civilians, tension had increased. The report of the Commissioner-General detailed numerous human rights violations, the imposition of collective sanctions and economic pressure in the form of the razing of houses, the confiscation of land, the uprooting of trees and the arbitrary distribution of water to Palestinians and Israeli settlers. The vicious circle of violence and bitterness should be halted. He welcomed the Agency's plan to expand the scope of income-generating projects and to invest in small and medium enterprises and training schemes to create employment. Disruption of the school year and the detention of pupils had caused a sharp deterioration in education in the occupied territories. The introduction of a system of travel passes for East Jerusalem had effectively divided the occupied territories into four separate areas, impeding movement between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank and constituting a further grave violation of international agreements on occupied territories.

10. His delegation appreciated the efforts of the Commissioner-General for administrative and financial reform of the Agency and the move to a biennial

(Mr. El-Arabi, Egypt)

budgetary cycle as at 1992-1993, which would facilitate monitoring and collaboration with other United Nations agencies. He noted with satisfaction the healthy state of the Agency's financial condition, but feared that the sharp increase in the population of the occupied territories would prevent the Agency from carrying out its activities at the current level if donations to the budget did not also increase. The report noted the need for some deep thinking about the political and philosophical concepts underlying UNRWA activities. He suggested that the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA should also address the question of funding for the Agency. He hoped that the Commissioner-General would be requested in future to broaden the scope of the UNRWA annual report from financial matters and services to include other questions addressed by General Assembly resolutions regarding the problems of Palestine refugees. With reference to General Assembly resolution 45/73 E on the situation of Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, he suggested the establishment of a committee to examine the question of issuing identification cards for Palestine refugees and their families, irrespective of whether or not they were recipients of services of the Agency. Finally, he was confident that the international community would not allow the conditions under which the Palestinian people was living to persist and that UNRWA would continue to alleviate their suffering, meet their needs and develop their economic potential on the basis of increased collaboration and coordination with other humanitarian and development organizations. He urged the international community to increase its support for UNRWA. He called upon Israel to cooperate with UNRWA, to respect its legal status, to ensure the protection of its various offices and the security and freedom of movement of its officials, not to obstruct its regular or emergency activities and to release the UNRWA officials whom it had detained. The first step of the peace process had recently been taken at Madrid. He looked forward to a time when there would no longer be a need for UNRWA.

11. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that the deteriorating situation of the Palestine refugees over the past several years, particularly in the occupied territories, had greatly increased the burden on the Agency. The events of the past year had posed fresh challenges, and UNRWA's activities in the areas of health, education and relief and social services as well as emergency aid had become more indispensable than ever.

12. Pakistan noted with deep concern that the Israeli authorities had continued their harsh measures as the intifadah had entered into its fourth year. UNRWA was facing persistent difficulties in the occupied territories because of Israeli interference, and a number of UNRWA staff members had been arrested and detained, in clear violation of the Agency's immunities and privileges.

13. His delegation was pleased that UNRWA operations had benefited from recent positive developments in Lebanon. It was to be hoped that the situation of the Palestine refugees would improve once the Lebanese Government restored normal conditions in southern Lebanon.

(Mr. Mahmood, Pakistan)

14. Although the financial situation of UNRWA in the year 1991 had been relatively sound, Pakistan was concerned about the overall insufficiency of financial resources, particularly at a time when the Agency must expand its emergency assistance and income-generation programmes. In that context, he announced that Pakistan had contributed 340,000 rupees in the previous year and would continue to do so in the future.

15. His delegation supported the proposal by the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA concerning the holding of an international information day on UNRWA. Such a step would help create a greater awareness for the Agency and its activities, with the ultimate objective of generating additional financial resources.

16. Pakistan welcomed the Middle East peace conference held recently in Madrid. It was to be hoped that the peace process would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination. Until such time, however, UNRWA must continue its vital work, and his delegation therefore urged the international community to provide additional support and increased financial assistance.

17. Mr. YU Shuning (China) said that, despite the Agency's enormous efforts, there had been no fundamental change in the situation of the Palestine refugees in the occupied territories, whose legitimate rights continued to be ignored. During the period covered by the report of the Commissioner-General (A/46/13), curfews had been imposed, houses sealed off and schools closed, many Palestine refugees killed or wounded by the occupying authorities, and the immunities and privileges of UNRWA had been violated. China urged the Government of Israel to honour its obligations under the fourth Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations.

18. The only way to end the plight of the Palestine refugees was through a just and reasonable political settlement. Failure would not only bring tremendous suffering to the Palestinian people but also pose a threat to peace in the Middle East and the world as a whole. Any settlement must be based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The occupied Arab territories must be returned, the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people restored and the sovereignty and security of all countries in the region, including Israel, respected and guaranteed. To obtain those objectives, China had always been in favour of convening an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. It was to be hoped that the negotiation process begun in Madrid would yield positive results so as to promote a comprehensive, just and reasonable settlement. Genuine and lasting peace was only possible if the State of Palestine and the State of Israel recognized each other and the Arab and Jewish peoples lived with each other in harmony. China would continue its efforts to reach that goal.

19. Mr. REDZUAN (Malaysia) said that his Government sympathized with the plight of the Palestinians, who were suffering as refugees in their own homeland. The responsibility lay with the State of Israel. The Palestinian problem would persist until Israel recognized the inalienable right of the Palestinians to a homeland.

20. The situation in the occupied territories continued to be appalling. Malaysia was gravely concerned that the Israeli authorities continued to demolish houses and to arrest and detain Palestinians without charges or trial. It was also alarmed at the heavy toll of Palestinians killed or wounded as a result of the brutal use of force and at other repressive measures of the Israeli authorities in clear violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. Malaysia called upon Israel to desist from the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees, the destruction of their homes and the construction of illegal Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories, actions which were counter-productive to current peace efforts. The Security Council had an obligation to ensure Israel's compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

21. Malaysia deplored Israeli interference in the Agency's humanitarian work and operations in disregard of UNRWA's privileges and immunities. Israel was liable under international law for any loss, damage or injury arising from its policies and practices in the occupied territories.

22. The denial of education to young Palestinians through the prolonged closure of schools and frequent curfews were violations of basic human rights. The Israeli authorities must facilitate UNRWA's efforts to provide education to young Palestinians.

23. Malaysia was concerned about the Agency's funding prospects, in particular the shortfall for the emergency-related programmes in Lebanon and the occupied territories. A discontinuation or reduction of those programmes would have disturbing humanitarian and political consequences. Malaysia would maintain its modest but regular contribution to UNWRA, and it urged those Member States that had not yet done so to contribute to the Agency and those Member States with the financial capability to increase their contributions. His Government welcomed the significant change that would be made to UNRWA's budgetary procedures with effect from 1992-1993 in order to reduce the workload and ensure more efficient use of the resources.

24. Malaysia commended the efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union in convening the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, which, it was to be hoped, had set in motion a negotiation process that would bring about a durable peace in the region and settle the question of a homeland for the Palestinians.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
24th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 19 November 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 24th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/46/SR.24
22 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/46/13 and Add.1, A/46/373, 399, 535-541, 622, A/SPC/46/L.12-22)

1. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the humanitarian aspect of the problem of the Palestine refugees was graver than any financial difficulties which UNRWA might be facing. His delegation was greatly concerned at the continuing lack of a solution despite 43 years of United Nations resolutions, which had gone unheeded. It was the responsibility of the United Nations to find a solution to their problem. He reiterated his delegation's rejection of the practice of showing the draft report of the Commissioner-General to the Israeli authorities when Arab host countries were not given the same consideration. He suggested that the Commissioner-General should have contacts with the Arab host countries before preparing his report. Despite the change in Commissioner-General, the report (A/46/13) had been drawn up in the same manner as in previous years. It had neglected to refer to General Assembly resolution 194 (III), in particular paragraph 11 thereof, which provided for the right of return of Palestine refugees. The report could not be considered complete if it did not make sufficient reference to the relevant resolutions. The report did not draw attention to the financial sacrifices made by the Arab host countries regarding Palestine refugees, which were in excess of all annual contributions to the agency. Such financial burdens should be noted in the body of the report and not in an annex.

2. He reiterated the need to resume ration distribution to all needy refugees and not just to special hardship cases; the definition of special hardship should be reviewed so as to allow a greater number of refugees to benefit from UNRWA services. The true number of needy cases was much greater than those registered with the Agency. His delegation was not opposed to family self-reliance schemes provided that beneficiaries were not thereby prevented from enjoying other services of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In particular, there should be no linkage between family self-reliance and programmes for special hardship cases. A review should be made of policies that were detrimental to large numbers of Palestine refugees, especially that of transferring refugees from category R, with restricted benefits, to category N, with no benefits, and that of cutting off relief benefits from any family one of whose male members had reached the age of 18 and was no longer a student or in military service. The maximum income level for ration distribution should be doubled. He reiterated his delegation's view that full ration distribution was a basic requirement, in accordance with United Nations recommendations. His delegation shared the concern of the Commissioner-General over funding and felt that the main problem was with contributions from the advanced industrial countries. Contributions both in cash and in kind should be increased. The Commissioner-General should hold consultations with members of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA and with the host countries before preparing the annual

(Mr. Khani, Syrian Arab Republic)

report and the budget, and the Advisory Commission should be granted more time for a detailed discussion of both the report and the budget. He stressed the need to reduce expenditure on operational services, general services and salaries, which accounted for over 80 per cent of the UNRWA budget, and to increase expenditure in order to develop education, health, relief and social services. The midday meal programme should not be abolished, as was envisaged.

3. The new stability in Lebanon should enable UNRWA headquarters to return to Beirut, a step which would allow it to oversee its operations more directly and which would entail considerable savings in operating costs. In view of the difficult circumstances obtaining in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, ration distribution should be continued there, but not at the expense of those services in the occupied Arab territories. The definition of a refugee should not be changed so as not to deprive anyone of the services of the Agency.

4. The international community should take steps to force the Israeli authorities to cease arresting and detaining UNRWA staff members and violating UNRWA premises. Despite numerous General Assembly resolutions, Israel persisted in refusing to allow refugees and forcibly displaced persons to return.

5. The intifadah expressed the Palestinians' rejection of the Israeli occupation and their desire for freedom and a life of dignity. His delegation rejected the wording of paragraph 7 of the Commissioner-General's report, which called the intifadah in question. That wording should be deleted. He assured the Commissioner-General of his country's continuing support and joined him in his appeal to the international community for the resources necessary for UNRWA to carry out its noble task.

6. Mr. AL-SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates) said that UNRWA had been established in 1949 as a temporary measure to deal with what it had been thought would be a short-term problem. Over 40 years later, Israel bore the full responsibility for the problem of the Palestine refugees since it had refused to comply with General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which stipulated the right of the refugees to return or to receive compensation. It had also failed to comply with the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 or with numerous Security Council resolutions. The inability of the international community to force Israel to abide by those resolutions and conventions was one of the main reasons for the continuing plight of the Palestine refugees.

7. In the wake of the criminal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, UNRWA had been called upon to provide assistance to people fleeing to Jordan, in addition to its regular work with refugees. After the liberation of Kuwait, UNRWA had had to deal with the rapidly deteriorating socio-economic situation of Palestinians, as the sharp fall in income and remittances and rise in unemployment hit the Palestinian economy in the occupied territories. The various medical services provided by UNRWA were well-known. Over the third

(Mr. Al-Suwaidi, United Arab Emirates)

year of the intifadah some 14,000 persons had received medical treatment from UNRWA for injuries arising from beatings, inhalation of tear-gas and shots from rubber bullets or live ammunition. Furthermore, hundreds had been martyred or imprisoned in Israel without being charged. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, UNRWA was helping to improve health conditions for Palestine refugees. UNRWA had devoted particular attention to general, vocational and technical education and teacher training, and had provided university grants to Palestine refugees. It continued to dispense relief and social services despite the increasing burdens being placed upon it by refugees. As conditions were reverting to normal in Lebanon, his delegation supported the request of the Government of Lebanon for the Agency's headquarters to return to Beirut.

8. His delegation was concerned that UNRWA officials had been detained or arrested without being charged and had been subjected to beating and physical torture by Israeli soldiers while performing their official duties. A matter of particular concern was the forced closure of certain health centres. Israeli insistence that UNRWA should conform to new building regulations had obstructed work on many urgently needed facilities. By such arbitrary actions Israel was not only contravening United Nations resolutions and international agreements, it was violating the universally recognized privileges and immunities of international civil servants. The problem of the Palestine refugees was not merely humanitarian. They had been forcibly displaced by the Israeli army in order to make room for new immigrants. All efforts towards a just solution must take into account the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Despite the oppressive Israeli practices aimed at forcing Palestinians to emigrate, the continuing intifadah was clear proof of the Palestinian people's attachment to its homeland and its refusal to accept a fait accompli. Half measures could not provide a solution to the problem of the Palestinian people. He hoped that the Madrid peace conference would enable the Palestinans to regain their full rights, and until such time he urged the international community to support UNRWA.

9. Mr. YARDEN (Israel) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the dedication of the Commissioner-General and staff of UNRWA in handling the difficult issues confronting them. Those efforts were well reflected in the latest report on UNRWA's operations (A/46/13), which was an important record of a fraction of a concerted effort to promote the long-term welfare of the Palestinian refugees.

10. The situation the Committee was dealing with had been systematically and wildly distorted in some of the statements made since the beginning of the debate. The basic historic truth was that the Arab-Israeli conflict was unique in character and context, and the real issue was neither territory nor the denial of self-determination to the Palestinian Arabs but the refusal of the Arab regimes to accept the irreversible reality of Israel. Without the wars launched by Arab leaders in order to end Israel's existence, the problem of the refugees would not have been created. The suffering of the Palestinian

(Mr. Yarden, Israel)

Arabs was very real, but it had been cynically exploited by Arab regimes in an effort to facilitate their goal of the destruction of Israel, and they had done nothing to bring that suffering to an end. To blame the State of Israel for it was an Orwellian distortion of the truth.

11. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of the Zionist entity was attempting to confuse the issue. It was that entity alone that was responsible for the plight of the Palestinian people.

12. Mr. YARDEN (Israel) said that it would be useful for a list of the names of Member States to be distributed in the Committee so that members of the Committee could refer to them correctly.

13. Continuing his statement, he said that exception must be taken to the general tenor of the report (A/46/13), which was biased against the State of Israel. For example, paragraph 7 of the report referred to the killing of alleged collaborators in Gaza and West Bank without identifying the killers. The fact was that many more Arabs had been murdered by their brethren than had been killed in clashes with the security forces during the reporting period. Again, paragraph 83 of the report stated that curfews and restrictions on movement, especially of labourers who normally worked in Israel, coupled with strikes, led to a massive loss of earnings. Of some 60,000 Gaza labourers who previously relied on daily wages in Israel, only about 30,000 were believed to be travelling there by the end of the reporting period. The fact was that only 40,000 to 45,000 Arab labourers from Gaza had worked in Israel before the Gulf War, of whom 30,000 to 35,000 had been travelling to Israel at the end of the reporting period and no less than 40,000 now worked in Israel.

14. Paragraph 9 of the report expressed approval of the intention of the Israeli authorities to encourage economic activities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Israel had taken a series of steps for that purpose, including the reduction of the taxes imposed on lorries exporting agricultural produce to Jordan, encouragement of the export of agricultural products to Europe, the provision of financial assistance to those setting up greenhouses in Gaza, the removal of limitations on the import of capital to the region and a number of other steps intended to encourage capital investment in the region.

15. The report mentioned, in paragraph 105, the understanding between UNRWA and the Government of Israel concerning the reimbursement of clearance, warehousing and transport charges by the Government of Israel. Israel would begin those reimbursements as of 1 January 1992.

16. Table No. 13 of the report listed the contributions in cash and in kind by Governments. Israel was listed in that table as having contributed $68,900; as a matter of fact, however, Israel as a host country had

(Mr. Yarden, Israel)

contributed an additional $25.66 million in kind, in the form of educational and health services, relief and social services, housing and other aid.

17. The opening of the peace conference in Madrid in October 1991 would, his delegation hoped, mark the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Middle East in which hostility, violence and war would be replaced by dialogue, accommodation and peace. The Special Political Committee should look towards the future and refrain from repeating the language of past resolutions on the item, which had for the most part been unacceptable to his delegation. Instead, it should appeal to all the parties concerned to seek the road that would lead to peace and set a tone which would create a climate of mutual trust, tolerance and respect.

18. Mr. AL-KHATER (Qatar) said that the Agency, which had begun its activities on an interim basis, was today confronted with the task of providing educational, health, welfare and social services to refugees to some 1.5 million refugees. Despite the assistance provided by UNRWA, the Palestinian people had continued to suffer from its original plight, namely the loss of its homeland. The tyrannical and arbitrary laws and regulations imposed on Palestinians by the occupation authorities continued to oppress and complicate their lives, and aggressive practices continued to undermine their security.

19. The positive developments within the international community in recent years had brought no appreciable mitigation of the plight of the Palestinian people. After more than 40 years, it had to be said that the international community had fallen short in its attempts to address the problem while it had managed to achieve success in the solution of other international problems.

20. The report of the Commissioner-General dealt in detail with the conditions in which the refugees lived and the difficulties and obstacles encountered by the Agency. The Agency had had to cope not only with the arbitrary conduct of the occupation authorities but with the tragic circumstances in which the Palestinian people lived both because of its lack of a normal economic and social life and because of the impact of recent events in the region. Perhaps the most grievous aspect of the situation of the Palestinians was their subjection to the tyranny and violence of the occupation forces, which had cost many of them their lives. During the reporting period, the Israeli security forces had taken increasingly severe measures, human rights violations had increased, and some 160 Palestinians had been killed and, by the middle of the year, some 14,000 arrested.

21. A large number of Agency officials had been arrested and subjected to harsh treatment. New restrictions had been imposed on movement, and East Jerusalem had been isolated. The difficulties encountered by UNRWA in carrying out its tasks had included the arrest of local staff and their detention without charge or trial and continued encroachments by Israeli security forces on Agency facilities. Despite the difficulties, it was clear

(Mr. Al-Khater, Qatar)

from the report of the Commissioner-General that the Agency had made every effort to perform its humanitarian functions to the full.

22. Mr. MARTINO (Observer for the Holy See) said that the concern of the Holy See for the peace of Jerusalem and the entire Holy Land ran very deep, and it had long been its policy to defend consistently and equally the rights of both Jews and Palestinians to a homeland. The Gulf crisis earlier in the current year had tragically affected the people of the land: the State of Israel, though not a participant in the conflict, had been subjected to missile attacks, while for the Palestinian people the Gulf crisis had created a disastrous new burden. In a statement released by the newly formed Council of Catholic Patriarchs, it had been noted that the political instabilities in the region were having a devastating impact on the Christian presence there and in January 1991, Pope John Paul II had established a Committee of the Holy See for humanitarian aid to the victims of the war in the Gulf and Middle East.

23. In his address to the diplomatic corps on 12 January 1991, the Pope had highlighted four areas of concern: first, the peace and security of Lebanon; second, recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people; third, the status of the city of Jerusalem, and fourth, the Gulf crisis. There was hope that Lebanon would gain political stability through negotiations, while the Conference on the Middle East which had opened in Madrid had brought both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian issue to the negotiating table. The Holy See regarded the peace initiatives in the Middle East with great interest and had a special interest in the situation of the Holy City of Jerusalem and of the Holy Places. Jerusalem must be preserved as a unified historical and cultural entity; its Holy Places, knitted as they were throughout the entire fabric of the Old City, could not be separated from it. The present situation of Jerusalem was that of an occupied territory and, as such, its status must not be changed before a negotiated settlement was reached. In the general spirit of the earliest United Nations decisions regarding the internationalization of Jerusalem - decisions that had never been implemented or officially rescinded - the Holy See maintained that the city must enjoy a special, privileged status with international guarantees, including guarantees of equality of rights and treatment for the three monotheistic religious communities, including freedom of worship, access to the Holy Places and protection of the rights and privileges already won by those communities, and guarantees that the three communities could continue to exist and live in peace, pursuing their religious, cultural, civic and economic activities. The problem of sovereignty, which was certainly an important and delicate one, should be given subordinate consideration. Whatever solution was found for that issue would have to be in conformity with the principles of justice and brought about by a peaceful agreement ensuring that the guarantees referred to would be safeguarded.

24. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel's appeal for the use of the correct names of delegations in the Committee could be taken more seriously if

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, Palestine)

Israel itself were to use the correct names for the occupied territories. The representative of Israel had also said that the question of self-determination was not the real issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. If that meant that Israel now accepted the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination he should say so clearly to the Committee. He had also suggested that the Committee should cease to use the terms usually employed in previous resolutions on the agenda item, but that request would be justified only when Israel ceased to engage in all the practices the Committee deplored and began to abide by all the resolutions the United Nations had adopted on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
25th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 20 November 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM	(Thailand)
later:	Mr. SCHAFER (Vice-Chairman)	(Germany)

CONTENTS

PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/46/SR.25
25 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a letter dated 14 November 1991 from the Controller addressed to the Special Political Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions, which had been circulated as document A/SPC/46/4.

AGENDA ITEM 72: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/46/13 and Add.1, A/46/373, 399, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541 and 622; A/SPC/46/L.12-L.22)

2. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted from the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that UNRWA had continued to extend its valuable assistance to the deprived people of Palestine despite difficult circumstances. The heroic Palestinian people continued to live under occupation in fear and tension, and had not yet been able to restore even its basic human rights, including self-determination and the right to a national homeland.

3. A complicated situation currently prevailed in the Middle East, and the constructive activities of UNRWA were obstructed by aggressive Israeli policies and arbitrary brutalities which were characterized as "routine" by Israeli forces. The details given in paragraph 4 of the Commissioner-General's report (A/46/13) regarding deaths, injuries and ill-treatment were self-explanatory.

4. Education was of vital importance in improving the cultural and scientific levels of the Palestinian people. His country, therefore, was greatly concerned about the future of Palestinian students, who were facing grave educational obstacles. During the reporting period, over 40 per cent of school days in the academic year had been lost, and instruction at the three Agency training centres in the occupied territories had been suspended for most of the months of January and February owing to the general curfew and periodic interruptions.

5. The inhumane practices of the Israeli forces had also affected virtually all UNRWA premises, as well as health centres in the occupied territories. Movement of the staff had been seriously affected by the frequent imposition of curfews and the designation of areas as closed military zones. There had been 618 incursions into Agency installations by members of the Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in the Gaza Strip alone, 132 instances of mistreatment of Agency staff members had been recorded.

6. It went without saying that UNRWA and its staff could not deal effectively with such difficulties, as well as those resulting from the

(Mr. Amin-Mansour, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Persian Gulf crisis, without the financial and political support of all countries and international organizations. For that reason, his country, despite the demands placed on its resources by its own reconstruction plans, continued to contribute $30,000 annually to UNRWA, and he was pleased to announce that the International Islamic University in Tehran was ready to grant scholarships to Palestinian students with a view to enhancing their scientific knowledge in various fields. His delegation also appreciated the cooperation of various international organizations, such as WHO, towards the achievement of UNRWA programmes.

7. Implementation of current programmes, such as income-generating initiatives, investment plans, distribution of self-instruction materials, socio-economic and welfare programmes and special hardship programmes, was of vital importance. His delegation sincerely hoped that UNRWA would succeed in carrying out those programmes, particularly those which would fundamentally strengthen the economic capability of the Palestinian people in the long term.

8. In conclusion, his delegation emphasized the necessity for the continuation of the Agency's work and the extension of its mandate. It was incumbent upon the international community, however, to take practical steps towards restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to security, self-determination and the establishment of an independent State in Palestine.

9. Ms. TRAORE (Mali) said that it was clear from the Commissioner-General's report that the treatment accorded to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had not improved. The intifadah had continued, and by 30 June 1991, 998 Palestinians had been killed and more than 70,000 injured. The Gulf war had also contributed to a deterioriating situation in that it had caused a substantial loss of earnings and remittances from the Gulf and a decline in local economic activity. Furthermore, UNRWA had had to cope with the massive influx of displaced Palestinians into Jordan.

10. In carrying out its mission, the Agency had been confronted by administrative restrictions imposed by the countries in which it conducted its operations, including incursions into its premises and the arrest and harassment of its staff members.

11. At the same time, there had been improvements in certain regions which had recently come under the authority of the Lebanese central Government. Her delegation also welcomed the agreement recently concluded between the Agency and the Syrian Government concerning implementation of the Agency's programmes on behalf of the refugees.

12. Programmes in the fields of health, education and social assistance, in addition to emergency relief, were more essential than ever. In that connection, her delegation appreciated the Agency's efforts to provide schooling for young Palestinians, in addition to vocational and technical

(Ms. Traore, Mali)

training and scholarships for university education. It also welcomed the investment programme undertaken by the Agency with the aim of creating jobs for the population of the occupied territories.

13. Her delegation noted with approval the internal restructuring carried out by the Agency in connection with the deployment of its resources. It appealed to Member States to contribute to the expansion of the Agency's financial base to enable it to meet its ever-growing needs. For its part, Mali, which had always supported the cause of the Palestinian people, would spare no effort to make its own modest contribution to helping to alleviate the plight of the refugees.

14. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that there had been some encouraging developments, particularly in Lebanon, since the last annual report of the Commissioner-General had been discussed in the Committee. On the other hand, the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in Jordan had deteriorated, partly due to the Gulf war and its aftermath. In particular, tightened Israeli security measures had led to increased unemployment and a further weakening of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

15. The intifadah, the Israeli response to it, and the Gulf conflict had put pressure on the carefully self-defined limits of UNRWA activities and had led to an expansion into the field of protection in its widest sense, to a revival of the "works" component of its mandate and to the provision of emergency relief assistance in the form of food distribution to all those in need, without regard to formal criteria. He noted with concern that the Israeli authorities had continued to be less than fully cooperative with Agency operations and staff.

16. The increased demands made on UNRWA, in addition to demographic developments, made the soundness of the Agency's financial situation a goal of paramount importance. For its part, Austria had reacted quickly and had almost tripled its regular contribution in 1991 to $US 500,000, and had made a special contribution in the amount of $US 1 million to help cover the costs faced by UNRWA in accommodating additional Palestinian refugee children who had arrived in Jordan due to the Gulf conflict. His delegation noted with concern and consternation, however, that the donor base of UNRWA continued to be narrow, in particular with regard to countries from the region in which the Agency operated.

17. The fact that UNRWA, while successfully continuing to educate and prepare the Palestinians for a better future, still had to feed and shelter them and provide for their health needs, was a disturbing reminder of what had gone wrong in the region and of the failure both of the peoples of the region and of the international community as a whole to solve a problem that continued to undermine peace and security. He joined others in expressing the hope that the peace process currently under way would soon lead to a relaxation of tensions and an atmosphere of greater mutual trust and confidence.

18. Mr. PAULSEN (Chile) said that UNRWA was neccessarily a transitory agency, even though it had for 40 years attended to the basic needs of Palestine refugees through four wars and other civilian and armed upheavals caused by the unresolved political problem in the area, and although it would have to continue making long-range plans, in view especially of the demographic factors complicating the situation of the Palestinian people. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA had put forward some worthwhile ideas about the work that UNRWA could perform during that transitional period in the event that the encouraging peace process recently initiated in Madrid led to a transitional system of Palestinian self-rule. The peace negotiators would undoubtedly focus primarily on the sectors in which UNRWA had been most active - education, public health, social services and relief services - and would give them priority in the process of transferring power to the Palestinian community.

19. The Gulf crisis had presented a great challenge to UNRWA because of the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to Jordan and because of the deteriorating economic and social situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. UNRWA had met that challenge well. The improvement of the internal situation in Lebanon would give UNRWA broader operational latitude in resolving some of the pressing problems of the Palestinian refugees in that country. Moreover, it was encouraging to learn that the financial situation of UNRWA was in 1991 on a relatively firm footing. Chile was responding to the Commissioner-General's appeal by again making a $5,000 contribution to UNRWA for 1992.

20. The Agency's technical and vocational training programmes for Palestinian refugees, whose human potential was fully recognized and utilized in the region, had been particularly successful, and Chile urged it to continue broadening its assistance in the areas of health, environmental hygiene, nutrition and other basic services.

21. His delegation would support all measures promoting a more coordinated and efficient management by the various United Nations agencies of programmes benefiting the Palestinian community, a goal that would no doubt be facilitated because of the atmosphere of détente and mutual trust generated by the Madrid peace process. A just and lasting solution must be found to the question of Palestine, the crux of the Middle East problem, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). That would entail the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied since 1967, respect for the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live within secure and internationally recognized borders, and the exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate right to self-determination.

22. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) said that his delegation supported the idea contained in paragraph 19 of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (A/46/622) of holding an international information day on UNRWA to make the Agency better known and with the aim of broadening its financial support. Regarding the suggestion that the wealthier Governments in the

(Mr. Al-Sabah, Kuwait)

region should be encouraged to increase their contributions, he felt that support of UNRWA was the responsibility of the international community as a whole and should not be restricted to certain countries or regions. The establishment of UNRWA in 1949 had been seen as a temporary measure until such time as the Palestinian problem could be solved. Since then, the number of refugees registered with the Agency had grown from three quarters of a million to 2.5 million, placing a correspondingly greater economic and moral responsibility on the international community to support the Agency in its humanitarian tasks. Following the normalization of the situation in Lebanon, his delegation requested the return of UNRWA to its original headquarters there. His Government, which had given increasing support to UNRWA, starting even before Kuwait had joined the United Nations, proposed to increase its contribution in the current year to $US 1.5 million in order to alleviate the burden shouldered by the Agency in providing its services to Palestine refugees. Kuwait supported the right of the Palestinian people as a whole to return to its land and its inalienable right to self-determination. Kuwait also supported all international efforts aimed at finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

23. Mr. PODTSEROB (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the current year's discussion of UNRWA was taking place in a new atmosphere of hope for a long-awaited settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict following the Madrid peace conference. The Soviet Union had always supported the convening of such a forum on the Middle East. An end must be put to the decades-long tragedy of the 4 million-strong Palestinian people, whose right to self-determination the Soviet Union supported. He hoped that the talks would bring the parties to a historic compromise. Those momentous political shifts obscured the tremendous humanitarian role played by UNRWA in providing assistance to the Palestine refugees. During the period covered by the report, the human rights situation had remained tense and there had been severe acts of repression against Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Gulf crisis had laid an additional burden on UNRWA, which had had to provide emergency assistance to hundreds of thousands of persons fleeing to Jordan. Throughout that period, UNRWA had never ceased to fulfil its regular humanitarian mission. His delegation found the persecution of UNRWA staff members and the violation of UNRWA premises by Israeli forces inadmissible and contrary to international law. He was confident that UNRWA would continue to carry out its noble tasks and hoped that the day would soon come when the Special Political Committee could consider that those tasks had been fully accomplished and that a settlement of the Middle East conflict had led to the disappearance of the reasons for which UNRWA had been established in 1949.

24. Mr. KIRSCH (Canada), speaking on behalf of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and his own country, said it was profoundly regrettable that political circumstances had required the "temporary" mandate of UNRWA to continue for more than 40 years. Australia, Canada and New Zealand had strongly supported recent efforts aimed at bringing about a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and security for all States

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

in the region, and they accordingly welcomed the Madrid peace conference and had been impressed by the note of optimism in the Commissioner-General's statement to the Committee introducing the annual report of UNRWA.

25. While it was to be hoped that the Agency could one day be dissolved, it continued to provide essential education, health and relief services to the Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the occupied territories. The Agency had performed very capably in a year which had seen dramatic new burdens added to its already strained resources. In particular, UNRWA had proved to be a helpful partner in the international relief efforts for the wave of evacuees from Kuwait into Jordan, and cooperation between the Jordanian Government and UNRWA had been much appreciated, in that it had enabled relief to reach those in dire circumstances. The Agency was also to be commended for its food distribution in the occupied territories in early 1991, when the effect of curfews during the Gulf war had brought economic life to a standstill and reduced remittances from Gulf States had brought new hardships to Palestinians. It had also coped well with the influx of children of Palestinian refugee families from the Gulf into UNRWA schools and health services in Jordan, the occupied territories and Syria. In making increased contributions to UNRWA over the past year, the Governments of Australia, Canada and New Zealand acknowledged both the extra demands placed on the Agency and the fact that it had coped very well in diverting resources to meet those emergencies.

26. In regard to Lebanon, the Governments on whose behalf he spoke welcomed the rapid progress towards peace and national reconciliation, and hoped that such a trend would continue, thereby affording UNRWA personnel greater safety and mobility and enabling the Agency to address the problems of disrupted schooling for a generation of Palestinian refugee children. They therefore also hoped that the Government of Lebanon would in the near future devote increased attention to the question of the social and economic rights of Palestinian refugees living in that country.

27. Turning to the work of UNRWA in the occupied territories, he said that the Agency had continued to operate in an atmosphere of tension and violence. Following the tragic events on 8 October 1990 in Jerusalem, the international community had welcomed its work in providing protection and legal assistance to Palestinians, and also the efforts made by the refugee affairs officers.

28. The atmosphere engendered by the Madrid peace conference gave grounds for hope that the situation in the occupied territories could improve rapidly. The three Governments had consistently maintained that the Fourth Geneva Convention should be applied de jure to those territories, and that Israel should comply fully with its provisions. Contraventions, including deportations and administrative detentions of Palestinians and demolition of housing, had disrupted the economic and social life of Palestinian society and increased the burden falling on UNRWA hospitals, clinics and schools.

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

29. The three Governments wished to reiterate their concern at the frequent failure to recognize the Agency's privileges and immunities, a factor which limited freedom of movement and affected operations. While incursions into UNRWA premises had somewhat abated, they still occurred too frequently. The resort to violence, whether by Israeli forces in the occupied territories or by Palestinian elements against Israeli citizens or within the Palestinian community itself, was also deplorable.

30. UNRWA continued to face delays and obstacles in implementing its construction programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Commissioner-General had noted that the situation had eased to some extent, although projects for which donors had already committed funds were still held up. The result of a marked reduction in administrative hindrances would create badly needed jobs for the Palestinian population and permit UNRWA to use its very limited resources in a timely and efficient manner.

31. In the past year UNRWA had given evidence of an increased commitment to income-generating projects. Given the deplorable economic situation within the occupied territories, efforts to promote small and medium-sized projects, creating very necessary employment, were very much welcomed by the three Governments. The Agency's innovative approaches to assist local Palestinian entrepreneurs, with revolving loan schemes, were particularly noteworthy.

32. Australia, Canada and New Zealand also welcomed the increased commitment by UNRWA to projects concentrating on programming for women. They had encouraged development of Agency policy to integrate planning for women's issues within the programming process and they would look forward to progress on that issue.

33. The international community had an obligation to provide UNRWA with the financial and political support it needed to meet new challenges. Unfortunately, such support had so far not proved forthcoming. Australia, Canada and New Zealand, despite domestic budget restrictions, had maintained their level of voluntary contributions and had responded to special appeals over the past year. In particular, he wished to point out that Australia's funding to the UNRWA core budget for 1991 was $US 2.5 million, representing a 5.3 per cent increase over the previous year. That had been supplemented by contributions of $US 500,000 to the Emergency Programme and $US 372,000 provided to Palestinians through grants to an Australian non-governmental organization. Australia's contribution to the core budget would rise to $US 2.6 million in 1992. For its part, New Zealand had contributed $US 200,000 to the core budget in the period July 1990 to June 1991, representing a 60 per cent increase over the previous year's allocation: that new level of funding would be maintained for the year 1991-1992. Canada's core funding to the 1991 budget of UNRWA totalled $US 10.5 million, in addition to contributions of $US 250,000 for income-generating programmes and a further $US 150,000 for women's projects. Canada could confirm that it would maintain its current level of funding for UNRWA.

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

34. The three Governments called upon States represented within the Special Political Committee to provide the funding which UNRWA would continue to need to fulfil the obligations with which it was entrusted. For their part, they would continue to work closely with UNRWA to ensure that its administrative and budgetary procedures were conducted in the most efficient manner possible.

35. In conclusion, he said that the Agency's work often placed its staff in danger: it was imperative that its humanitarian role and the status of its international staff be respected and protected by the authorities in all areas in which it operated.

36. Mr. AL-ZAYANI (Bahrain) said that UNRWA had been established in 1949 as a temporary measure to meet the basic needs of the Palestine refugees. The non-implementation of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which provided for the return of the refugees to their homes or compensation for those who did not wish to return, meant that the Agency had become permanent, continuing to play its noble humanitarian role despite its limited resources. Indeed, UNRWA had always shown ingenuity in overcoming material obstacles and ensuring that its basic programmes were carried out even while accepting urgent additional tasks.

37. It was apparent from the Commissioner-General's report that Israel had continued to repress the intifidah through killings, destruction of property, the razing or closure of buildings and arbitrary arrests. In one of the most tragic events, on 8 October 1990, 17 Palestinians had been killed and more than 150 wounded by Israeli security forces in the Haram al-Sharif, which had led to Security Council resolution 672 (1990) condemning those actions and resolution 681 (1990) requesting the Secretary-General to monitor and observe the situation regarding Palestinian civilians. As recently as 18 November 1991 it was reported that Israeli police had stormed the Shariah Court building in Jerusalem and seized documents.

38. The reports of the Commissioner-General and the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA indicated that the Agency's financial condition had been relatively healthy in 1991 and that UNRWA had received sufficient funding to deliver the essential parts of its programmes in 1990. However, both the Commissioner-General and the Working Group were concerned about the funding prospects for 1992. Efforts to ensure a greater flow of funds should therefore be intensified. The Working Group's suggestion of holding an international information day might help to broaden the base of financial support. UNRWA would remain a necessary institution until a just and lasting solution was found to the problem of Palestinian people. With the normalization of the security situation in Lebanon, his delegation supported the return of UNRWA to its headquarters at Beirut.

39. Mr. TURKMEN (Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) said that he wished to express his appreciation on behalf of UNRWA for the Committee's constructive debate on the

(Mr. Turkmen, UNRWA)

item under consideration. The greatest strength for an organization such as UNRWA was to be able to count on the support and confidence of Member States.

Consideration of draft resolutions A/SPC/46/L.12 to L.22

40. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Turkey had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.13 and that Comoros had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/SPC/46/L.15 to L.22. He also drew attention to a typographical error in draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12: in the first line of the first preambular paragraph the correct resolution reference should read "45/73 A".

41. Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12, said that the United States was again pleased to sponsor the annual resolution on assistance to Palestine refugees. The United States was very concerned about the Palestinian refugee situation and was strongly supportive of UNRWA, whose humanitarian programmes provided vital educational, medical and relief services. It commended the response of UNRWA to the emergency needs of refugees displaced by the Gulf conflict and those affected by violence in Lebanon or by unrest in the occupied territories. To enable UNRWA to carry out its humanitarian mission, there must be strong financial support from the international community, and the United States implored other countries to donate generously.

42. Mr. BAS BACKER (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.13 on the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, reviewed the provisions of the draft text, which put particular emphasis on the extraordinary efforts that must continue to be made in order to maintain UNRWA activities at least at their present level and enable the Agency to carry out important construction and emergency programmes as well. Events in the Middle East were likely to generate further claims on its funds in coming years. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt that the Working Group should continue its commendable work, and expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

43. Mr. HIDE (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.14 on assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities, said that its objective, as in past years, was to endorse UNRWA efforts in that connection. It contained a strong appeal for generous contributions for that purpose. The sponsors were confident that it would be approved by consensus.

44. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), introducing on behalf of the sponsors draft resolutions A/SPC/46/L.15 on offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees, L.18 on return of populations and refugees displaced since 1967, L.19 on revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties and L.21 on the University of Jersusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees, drew attention

(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

to the main points of those resolutions and said that Bangladesh greatly valued the important work being performed by UNRWA in providing education, health and relief work to the Palestinian refugees, but at the same time hoped that its work could be terminated as soon as possible, following a just and lasting solution to the Palestine problem.

45. Bangladesh had repeatedly stressed its anguish at the desperate plight of its Palestinian brethren and welcomed the recent Middle East peace conference begun at the initiative of the United States and the Soviet Union. A lasting and durable settlement must include the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

46. The draft resolutions did not differ from those adopted at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and Bangladesh urged all delegations to support them.

47. Mr. FAZL-I-MAHMOOD (Pakistan), introducing, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolutions A/SPC/46/L.16 on Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, L.17 on resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees, L.20 on protection of Palestine refugees and L.22 on protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territory, reviewed their content and expressed the hope that they would receive the overwhelming support of the Committee, particularly at a time when the situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated considerably. It was the presence of UNRWA that enabled the people of Palestine to avail itself of a minimum of education, health and relief services, and the Agency therefore needed the full assistance of the international community in alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian refugees.

48. He drew attention to an oral revision in paragraph 4 of L.20. In the first line, the words "in consultation with" should be replaced by "and", and in the third line, the word "his" by "their".

49. Mr. PODTSEROB (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his Government's approach to reaching a Middle East settlement remained unchanged. The Soviet Union considered it inappropriate to adopt draft resolutions that dealt with subjects discussed at the Madrid peace conference on the Middle East, and would therefore abstain on draft resolutions L.18, L.19, L.20 and L.21. Needless to say, it was essential to continue the positive work of UNRWA, and in that context, his delegation supported all other resolutions under agenda item 72.

50. Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that her Government supported draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12 on assistance to Palestine refugees and reaffirmed its continued commitment to the Agency's vital educational,

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

medical and relief services. The United States was also pleased to join in the traditional consensus on draft resolutions A/SPC/46/L.13 and A/SPC/46/L.14.

51. Each year, many of the other resolutions submitted under the agenda item under consideration were highly politicized and contained sweeping, unbalanced criticism of Israel's treatment of refugees or made proposals that the United States regarded as financially unsound. Such resolutions made no practical contribution to UNRWA objectives and only served to exacerbate tensions in an already difficult atmosphere in the occupied territories. For those reasons, despite its basic support for UNRWA, her delegation would vote against those resolutions.

52. The United States supported draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.15, which represented a practical approach to meeting the needs of refugees for higher education. However, it had reservations regarding paragraph 5 on the proposed Jerusalem University "Al-Quds", which it did not endorse.

53. Her delegation could not support draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16, which referred to an inalienable right of return while making no mention of the ongoing negotiations for comprehensive and lasting peace among the concerned parties. Moreover, the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Commissioner-General, to resume issuing identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied territories. In the view of her delegation, the Commissioner-General should retain the authority to administer UNRWA programmes without such outside interference. The United States opposed such measures as the destruction of dwellings in the occupied territories, which were inconsistent with international law, but her Government would not object in principle to the concept of free relocation of those refugees who themselves sought new and better housing.

54. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.17, the United States had traditionally opposed that measure because, once again, it attempted to usurp the authority of the Commissioner-General to take decisions regarding how best to administer UNRWA programmes. Her delegation respected the judgement of the Commissioner-General that the real need for general ration distribution had ended and its continuation would adversely affect financing of other high-priority programmes.

55. The United States objected to draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.18 because it reaffirmed the "inalienable right of all displaced inhabitants to return to their homes or former places of residence", again without reference to the ongoing direct negotiations among the parties concerned.

56. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.19 also harshly criticised Israeli policy and requested that the Secretary-General establish a fund on behalf of displaced Arab property owners, for receipt of income derived therefrom. Her Government

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

opposed that measure because, once again, it sought to prejudge the question of refugee compensation outside the context of a negotiated settlement.

57. Concerning draft resolution A/SPC/46/20, which urged the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General to take measures to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees in the occupied territories, that would clearly exceed the UNRWA mandate. When a similar resolution had been considered in 1982, the United Nations Legal Counsel had pointed out that Israel, as the occupying Power in the West Bank and Gaza, had the authority and the responsibility to maintain security in the area. The United States was firmly on record that Israel must carry out those obligations in strict accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

58. The United States strongly supported practical efforts designed to promote educational opportunities for Palestinian refugees, but was constrained to oppose draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21, which represented an unreasonable and unworkable approach to the problem. It was not practical or appropriate for the General Assembly to involve itself in decision-making concerning the establishment of such an institution.

59. The United States felt compelled to vote against draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.22. Her Government was deeply concerned over school closures and disruption of UNRWA activities in the West Bank and Gaza, and had raised the matter on numerous occasions with the Government of Israel. The United States objected, however, to the harsh condemnation of Israel in that text. Her delegation had made it clear on numerous occasions that it would not support extreme or unbalanced resolutions of that kind. That was particularly true in the period ahead, when efforts were being made to build on the progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process begun at Madrid and to foster an environment conducive to serious negotiations and the achievement of real peace.

60. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic,

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* The Rwandese delegation announced at the 26th meeting that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12.

Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

61. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.12 was adopted by 119 votes to none, with one abstention.

62. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the following information had been provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division in connection with draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.13:

"Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.13, it would request the Secretary-General to provide necessary services and assistance to the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the conduct of its work.

"Provision is already made for substantive services to the Working Group under subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committees activities) under section 3 (Political and Security Council affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. As regards conference servicing requirements, it is assumed that ten meetings would be held in New York during 1992, but that services would be provided for these meetings on an 'as available' basis, so that related requirements would be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services. On this basis, no additional costs would arise and no additional appropriations would be required."

63. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.13 was adopted without a vote.

64. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.14 was adopted without a vote.

65. A recorded vote was taken on resolution A/SPC/46/L.15.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

66. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.15 was adopted by 121 votes to none, with one abstention.

67. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the following information had been provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division in connection with draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16:

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.15.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.15.

(The Chairman)

"In his report on this subject, contained in document A/46/536 issued on 9 October 1991, the Secretary-General had indicated that he was unable at that time to comply with the request to resume the issuance of identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants, contained in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/73 E, and that in accordance with the current practice, all refugee families registered with UNRWA receive registration cards which are issued by the Agency. It was further indicated in that report that the Commissioner-General did not have the means to issue identity cards.

"The Secretary-General regrets that he is still unable to comply with the request contained in paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16.

"Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16, the Secretary-General would, however, keep the situation under review to see whether appropriate documentation regarding the registration status of individual members of refugee families could be issued."

68. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand,

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16.

Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire, Zaire.

69. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16 was adopted by 118 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

70. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.17.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.17.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.17.

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Poland, Romania, Spain, Zaire.

71. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.17 was adopted by 88 votes to 22, with 13 abstentions.

72. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.18.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

73. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.18 was adopted by 89 votes to 2, with 32 abstentions.

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.18.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.18.

74. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.19.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

75. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.19 was adopted by 87 votes to 2, with 34 abstentions.

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.19.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.19.

76. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.20, as orally revised by the sponsors.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

77. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.20, as orally revised, was adopted by 117 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

78. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the following information had been provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division in connection with draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21:

"In his report on this subject, contained in document A/46/540, the Secretary-General has indicated that, in order to comply with the request addressed to him in operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.20.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.20.

(The Chairman)

45/73 J, and reiterated in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it will be necessary to complete the functional feasibility study initiated in pursuance of previous General Assembly resolutions. He has also indicated that it has not proved possible to complete this study as planned.

"Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21, the Secretary-General continues to believe that implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 2 would require completion of the functional feasibility study on the proposed university at Jerusalem. Since at present this does not appear possible, the Secretary-General is not in a position to foresee related programme budget implications. Should the situation change during 1992, the Secretary-General would propose to initiate action under the procedures for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. Proposals for further action and related estimates would be put before the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in the context of the report requested in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution."

79. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname,

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21.

Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Zaire.

80. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.21 was adopted by 114 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

81. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.22.

In favour*: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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* The Cuban and Rwandese delegations announced at the 26th meeting that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.22.

The delegation of Djibouti later informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.22.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire.

82. Draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.22 was adopted by 120 votes to 2, with one abstention.

83. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.16, on the understanding that the request addressed to the Commissioner-General in paragraph 2 and the request addressed to the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 would take into account the Agency's actual ability to comply with the requests.

84. Mr. BAS BACKER (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said that the negative votes they had cast on some of the draft resolutions must in no way be regarded as limiting their support for UNRWA. They also wished to underscore their concern over the continued uncertainty of the funding for UNRWA. While the Twelve supported on humanitarian grounds the development of the various services UNRWA could provide, they had doubts about the advisability of placing unrealistic demands on the Commissioner-General.

85. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that although his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions, it had some reservations. In principle, it could not accept any term that implicitly or explicitly indicated recognition of the Israeli regime.

86. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer for Palestine) thanked all who had voted in favour of the draft resolutions just adopted. The Palestine Liberation Organization interpreted those votes as massive international support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to attain their national rights.

87. Mr. YARDEN (Israel) asked whether it was proper procedure for an observer to speak in explanation of position after a vote.

88. The CHAIRMAN explained that the observer for Palestine had spoken on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) and 43/177.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.